Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response in a vertebrate subject, said method comprising: administering core carriers coated with a vector construct to a subject using a particle-mediated transdermal delivery technique, wherein (a) the vector construct carries an HSV genomic DNA fragment or HSV genomic DNA fragments, the fragment or fragments expressing HSV antigens consisting essentially of those encoded by the HSV immediate early genes ICP 27, ICP 0, ICP 4 and ICP 22; (b) the ICP 27, ICP 0, ICP 4 and ICP 22 antigens are expressed in the subject in an amount sufficient to elicit an immune response; and (c) the vector construct is selected from the group consisting of (i) a plasmid comprising an HSV genomic DNA fragment which is, or HSV genomic DNA fragments which collectively are, between about 5 kilobases and about 25 kilobases in size and (ii) a cosmid comprising a HSV genomic DNA fragment which is, or HSV genomic DNA fragments which collectively are, between about 25 kilobases and about 50 kilobases in size. ~~(a) providing core carriers coated with vector constructs, where each vector construct carries non-overlapping HSV genomic DNA fragments, wherein the genomic DNA fragments contain an antigen coding sequence and the fragments in each vector construct collectively encode two or more, but not all, of the HSV viral proteins, and wherein the vector constructs are selected from the group consisting of a plasmid comprising genomic fragments which are collectively between about 5 kilobases and about 25 kilobases and a cosmid comprising genomic fragments which are collectively between about 25 kilobases and about 50 kilobases in size; and (b) administering the coated core carriers to the subject using a particle-mediated transdermal delivery technique, whereby the antigens encoded by the coding sequences present in the genomic DNA are expressed in the subject in an amount sufficient to elicit an immune response~~.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein expression of coding sequences contained within the genomic DNA fragments is not driven by a heterologous promoter.

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the vector construct is a plasmid and the genomic fragments are collectively between about 5 kilobases and about 25 kilobases in size.

18-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the core carriers have an average diameter of about 0.5 to about 5 μm and a density sufficient to allow delivery into the subject.

23. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the core carriers are comprised of a metal.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the metal is gold.

25. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) is repeated to provide a prime and a booster administration.

26. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the vector construct is a cosmid and the genomic fragments are collectively between about 25 kilobases and about 50 kilobases in size.

27-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the core carriers have an average diameter of about 0.5 to about 5 μm and a density sufficient to allow delivery into the subject.

32. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the core carriers are comprised of a metal.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the metal is gold.

34. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein step (b) is repeated to provide a prime and a booster administration.

35-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said non-overlapping genomic DNA fragments obtained from HSV have at least 95% homology to natural genomic DNA fragments obtained from HSV.